

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A playback apparatus comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining playback management information including first information having a main playback path indicating a position of an AV stream file recorded on a recording medium and second information having a plurality of sub playback paths indicating positions of sub files including accompanying data to be played back simultaneously with playback of main image data included in the AV stream file;

selection means for selecting accompanying data to be played back, based on an instruction from a user, from among accompanying data to be played back simultaneously with the main image data included in the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path and the accompanying data included in the sub files, which ~~can be selected~~ are selectable from streams or data files different from a main AV stream, referred to by the sub playback paths;

reading means for reading, if the accompanying data selected by the selection means is included in a sub file referred to by a sub playback path, the sub file referred to by the sub playback path together with the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path; and

playback means for playing back the main image data included in the AV stream file read by the reading means and the accompanying data included in the sub file selected by the selection means and read by the reading means.

Claim 2 (Original): The playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first information includes a table defining the accompanying data included in the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path and the accompanying data referred to by the sub playback paths, and

the selection means selects the accompanying data to be played back, based on the instruction from the user, from among the accompanying data defined in the table.

Claim 3 (Original): The playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising determining means for determining whether the playback apparatus has a function of playing back the accompanying data selected by the selection means,

wherein if it is determined by the determining means that the playback apparatus has a function of playing back the accompanying data and if the accompanying data is included in a sub file referred to by a sub playback path, the reading means reads the sub file referred to by the sub playback path together with the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path, and

the playback means plays back the main image data included in the AV stream file read by the reading means and the accompanying data included in the sub file selected by the selection means and read by the reading means.

Claim 4 (Original): The playback apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising determining means for determining whether the playback apparatus has a function of playing back the accompanying data selected by the selection means,

wherein if it is determined by the determining means that the playback apparatus has a function of playing back the accompanying data and if the accompanying data is included in a sub file referred to by a sub playback path, the reading means reads the sub file referred to by the sub playback path together with the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path, and

the playback means plays back the main image data included in the AV stream file read by the reading means and the accompanying data included in the sub file selected by the selection means and read by the reading means.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the table further defines attribute information concerning accompanying data, and the determining means determines whether the playback apparatus has a function of playing back the accompanying data based on attribute information concerning the accompanying data defined in the table.

Claim 6 (Original): The playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second information includes type information concerning the types of the sub playback paths, file names of the sub files referred to by the sub playback paths, and IN points and OUT points of the sub files referred to by the sub playback paths.

Claim 7 (Original): The playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the second information further includes specifying information for specifying the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path to play back the sub playback paths simultaneously with the main playback path, and a time on the main playback path for allowing the IN points to be started in synchronization with the main playback path on the time axis of the main playback path.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A playback method comprising:

an obtaining step of obtaining playback management information including first information having a main playback path indicating a position of an AV stream file recorded on a recording medium and second information having a plurality of sub playback paths indicating positions of sub files including accompanying data to be played back simultaneously with playback of main image data included in the AV stream file;

a selection step of selecting accompanying data to be played back, based on an instruction from a user, from among accompanying data to be played back simultaneously with the main image data included in the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path and the accompanying data included in the sub files, which ~~can be selected~~ are selectable from streams or data files different from a main AV stream, referred to by the sub playback paths;

a reading step of reading, if the accompanying data selected by processing of the selection step is included in a sub file referred to by a sub playback path, the sub file referred to by the sub playback path together with the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path; and

a playback step of playing back the main image data included in the AV stream file read by processing of the reading step and the accompanying data included in the sub file selected by processing of the selection step and read by processing of the reading step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium including computer executable instructions allowing a computer to execute processing comprising:

an obtaining step of obtaining playback management information including first information having a main playback path indicating a position of an AV stream file recorded on a recording medium and second information having a plurality of sub playback paths

indicating positions of sub files including accompanying data to be played back simultaneously with playback of main image data included in the AV stream file;

a selection step of selecting accompanying data to be played back, based on an instruction from a user, from among accompanying data to be played back simultaneously with the main image data included in the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path and the accompanying data included in the sub files, which ~~can be selected~~ are selectable from streams or data files different from a main AV stream, referred to by the sub playback paths;

a reading step of reading, if the accompanying data selected by processing of the selection step is included in a sub file referred to by a sub playback path, the sub file referred to by the sub playback path together with the AV stream file referred to by the main playback path; and

a playback step of playing back the main image data included in the AV stream file read by processing of the reading step and the accompanying data included in the sub file selected by processing of the selection step and read by processing of the reading step.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled).